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Seniors

Security tips: Crime commissioner gives advice against trick theft



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Bocholt - The auditorium at Stadtparkasse Bocholt was filled with emotion at times when Chief Inspector Klaus Vogel told the audience about the subtle scams used by con artists. In his presentation, the expert showed the audience how to recognise scams and take the right action.

Klaus Vogel from the Borken district commissioner's office for prevention and victim protection shared his experience with the guests in his presentation on "Criminal offences against senior citizens". Among other things, he showed a film with a vivid example: in it, a woman received more than 70 calls within 24 hours - until she finally handed over money and jewellery to the "fake police officers".

"Unfortunately, the classics today are the grandchild trick and the so-called 'fake police officer'," said Vogel. He also emphasised that fraudsters often play on people's fears, especially concerns about the safety and health of their families.

To protect himself from these scams, Vogel outlined three basic principles: This starts with not giving money or valuables to strangers, even to supposed police officers, Vogel said. He also recommended carrying valuables close to your body at the Christmas market, for example, to prevent pickpockets and trick thefts. In addition, an absolute basic rule is: "You are the boss at the front door!" - because if you don't let someone in, they can't steal from you, says Vogel.

Another important point that Vogel emphasised is checking the identity of people pretending to be police officers: "If the doorbell rings and a police officer is at your door, it is

more than usual to double-check," said the expert. Vogel advises contacting the police on 110 in such cases and checking that the officer is present.

About the lecture

The lecture was planned in advance in connection with the Bocholt Seniors' Fair by the city of Bocholt (Seniors' Office and Demography Officer). The lecture was supported by Stadtparkasse Bocholt.